▲トラキアのアシュレイ

JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

vol. 2

WAZARAI SHIZUYA

技来静也

登場人物

セスタス：ローマ帝国の最下層階級の拳奴の集まり、ヴァレンス奴隷闘士養成所に身を置く少年。生き延びるために闘いを余儀なくされる。

ザファル：ヌミディア出身の拳奴。セスタスに拳闘の才能を見いだし、師として拳の技を教え込む。過去にデミトリアスと闘い膝が不自由に。

デミトリアス：ローマ帝国の勇者。別名アッティカの金獅子。過去にザファルと闘い右眼を失っている。

ルスカ：デミトリアスの息子、皇立徒手格闘兵団首席訓練生。ローマの格闘児の異名をとる。

ネロ：ローマ帝国第5代皇帝。17歳で即位の幼年皇帝。

アシュレイ：旅芸団メイソン一座の看板芸人。

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS セスタス vol.2 技来静也

白泉社

9784592133223

ISBN4-592-13322-6

C9979 ¥505E

1929979005054

定価 本体505円＋税

雑誌44317－13 白泉社

技来静也の好評既刊

プラス・ナックル◆全3巻

独立間も無いアメリカ西部を舞台に繰りひろげられるアクションとバイオレンス!! 銃と怪物、復讐と悲しみをのせた強烈なる物語!!

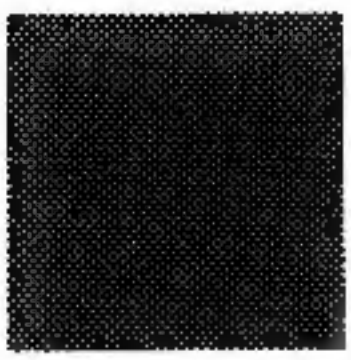
拳闘暗黒伝セスタス◆①～⑤巻

世界帝国となったローマを舞台に、拳奴（けんど）・セスタスの成長を通して自由を勝ち取る大切さを語るボクシング・アクション!!

YOUNG ヤングアニマル
ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4金曜日発売

JETS COMICS

YOUNG ANIMAL PRESENTS



HAKUSENSHA

JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝セスタス②

技来静也

拳闘暗黒伝GESTVS

セスタス

2

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などとは、いっさい無関係です。

COMRADE OF FEAR...

AS I APPROACH THIS PLACE OF DEATH...

PLEASE LET MY FIST...

GUIDE ME TO VICTORY!

OH GOD OF WAR...

CHAPTER IX: THE RED-HAIRED YOUTH

THE FIGHTING CHILD WITH EXTREME SPEED!

CESTVS!

HURRY UP AND FALL DOWN!

HAH

HAH

HAH

HAH

HAH

HURRY UP...

JUST FALL DOWN!

オオオ

GET CARRIED AWAY WILL YOU!

!

DRIP

DAMN KID!

SHIT!

CATCH YOUR BREATH CESTVS!

YOUR OPPONENT HITS HARD!

ドス

USE YOUR LEGS MORE!

HAH.

HAH.

HAH.

HAH.

AH.. MY LEG!

!!

DON'T GET HIT AS HE CHASES YOU!

HERE HE COMES!

THIS IS BAD!

MY KNEE'S GIVING OUT!

HIS FISTS HAVE WEAKENED!

DON'T STOP, MOVE YOUR UPPER BODY!

HE ABSOLUTELY MUSTN'T BREAK YOUR DEFENCE!

HOW CAN I FACE THIS!

SO... SO FAST!

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP!

IF HE TAKES ONE MORE HIT IT'S OVER!

THUMP!

THUMP!

HE'S BEEN SHUT DOWN ENTIRELY!

I'M GOING TO DIE!
I'M GOING TO DIE!
I'M GOING TO DIE!

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

YOUR OPPONENT IS ALSO TIRING!

BEAR WITH IT, DON'T RUSH!

I'M GOING TO LOSE!
I'M GOING TO LOSE!
I'M GOING TO LOSE!

UWAAAH!

PLEASE, I BEG YOU.

THAT'S ENOUGH...

IDIOT, DON'T DO SUCH A LARGE SWING!

JUST FALL DOWN!

...!

CESTVS!

GET UP!

CESTVS!

STAND UP!

110 A.D.

THAT'S IT. KEEP GOING AND STAND UP!

THAT'S RIGHT, I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH...

IF YOU GET UP, IT'LL BE YOUR WIN!

HAA.

HAA.

HAA.

SO I'VE...

OVERCOME DEATH THEN!

IT WAS A FATAL MISTAKE.

WITH THAT ONE FRAIL BLOW YOU ALLOWED THE ENEMY TO MAKE A COMPLETE TURNAROUND.

IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, AFTER ALL YOU'RE STILL A CHILD WITH LITTLE EXPERIENCE.

HOWEVER, FIGHTS WON'T WAIT FOR YOU TO REACH ADULTHOOD

CESTVS IS THE VICTOR!

HAA.

HAA.

HAA.

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

FUCK IT AAAAALL!

GURGH

URGH

ハァ ハァ ハァ…

THREE WINS...

THREE WINS, I CAN'T DO IT...

I'VE NOT EVEN...

KAH.

HAH.

HAH.

!

CESTVS!

WON'T YOU STEP ASIDE?

...

...

I...

I'M SORRY RUSKA...

WHIMPERING THERE.

YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST DOWN BY MY FEET, STARING UP AT ME.

YOU'LL NEVER REACH THE SUMMIT!

LIKE THAT, NO MATTER WHAT...

GOLD RUSKA!

ROME'S FIGHTING CHILD!

ZZZ

ZOOP

VERSUS HIS OPPONENT!

A VISITOR FROM THE LAND OF THE HAN, FAR TO THE EAST!

HE WIELDS A ROD!

THE CRIMSON WHIRLWIND, ENKAKU!

BEGIN!

SWISH
メキッ
!!
!!

FOR MY OPPONENT...

THERE IS NO SYMPATHY.

THERE IS NO MERCY.

BREAK!

IT IS ONLY THE SUMMIT WHICH I LOOK UP TOWARDS, IT IS FOR THAT WHICH I PUSH MY SKILLS TO THE UTMOST!

NOW SNAP!

POP.

TWIST.

TWIST.

CRACK.

FOR THE SAKE OF ME REACHING THE SUMMIT!

I CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK AT THE THINGS BELOW!

IT IS FOR THAT REASON I BEAR THE TASTE OF THESE KILLINGS

I MUST BECOME EVEN STRONGER! I MUST BECOME SHARPER!

I NEED TO BECOME AN ADULT AS SOON AS I CAN.

KYAA, LOOK THIS WAY!

IT'LL BE GREAT WHEN YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP!

MARRY ME RIGHT NOW RUSKA!

HIS STRENGTH IS SO FAR BEYOND MINE.

RUSKA IS AMAZING.

I'LL SURELY LOSE!

I'LL BE FIGHTING MANY TIMES...

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CATCH HIM. I...

YOU KEPT ME ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT!

IT WAS A SIGHT TO SEE, YOU ON THAT STAGE!

110ヶ
110ヶ
110ヶ
110ヶ
110ヶ

I CAN'T WIN, CAN I.. ?

MASTER.

HEY, IT'S THE STAR OF THE SHOW!

THAT WASN'T A PLAY, IT WAS BOXING!

A STAGE YOU SAY?!

WHEN I SAW YOU FIGHTING IN THAT MATCH YOU LOOKED LIKE AN ACROBAT.

HEY NOW, I WAS PAYING YOU...

A COMPLI-MENT.

SHOR-TIE?!

DON'T GET MAD, SHORTIE.

RIGHT.

GEEZ...

YOU'D REALLY GET WOUND UP BY A JOKE FROM A COMRADE OF YOURS...

YOU NEED TO GET SOME GUTS, IDIOT.

WE'RE THE SAME HEIGHT AND YET...

ACTUALLY NO, I'M A LITTLE BIT...

AH, WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT'S THIS?!

WE'RE SIMILAR SORTS OF ACTORS RIGHT!

YOUR BOXING SKILLS AND MY STREET PERFORMANCE...

A COM-RADE?

THE RED-HAIRED YOUTH FROM THRACE, ASHLEY!

THE STAR PERFORMER IN THE TRAVELLING TROUPE THE MAISONS!

LET'S HAVE SOME APPLAUSE!

I DON'T WANT TO SEE SUCH A GLOOMY FACE YOU KNOW!

A CERTAIN SHORTIE'S BROUGHT MY MOOD DOWN.

110°F

110°F

I'M SORRY...

CHAPTER IX: THE RED-HAIRED YOUTH - END

セスタス

CHAPTER 15: THE RIVAL

GET AWAY FROM THE ROAD!

OH, SO YOU...

REMEMBERED MY NAME THEN.

WHOA!

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴ...

LADY ROXXANE!

GOOD MORNING.

SHE'S PRETTY!

IT SEEMS SHE KNOWS CESTVS?

ﾊﾊﾊ

WHO IS THAT... RATHER TALL LADY?

ﾊﾊﾊ...

HEY...

YOUR NEXT MATCH IS NOT FOR A WHILE YET, IS IT?

I HAVE COME TO COLLECT YOU UPON THE ORDERS OF HIS MAJESTY, THE EMPEROR.

CESTVS.

I'VE STILL PRACTICE TO DO AND...

BUT... I...

EH... LORD NERO...

ガヤ

ガヤ..

ガヤ

ガヤ

ガヤ..

AFTER ALL, LORD VALENS WILL BE WILLING TO GRANT YOU PERMISSION.

SO COME.

THE TASK WILL TAKE BUT A FEW DAYS TO FINISH.

WHAT SHOULD I DO, MASTER?

SO...

IT'S OKAY THEN?

THAT SAID, WE'VE ONLY BASIC TRAINING TO DO. JUST DON'T MISS IT EVERY DAY.

YOU SHOULDN'T REALLY GO.

ナヤ..

IT LOOKS LIKE CESTVS HAS SOMEHOW MANAGED TO IMPRESS THE EMPEROR.

DANG, AIN'T THAT NICE.

IT COULD BE THE CASE THAT HE SOON GAINS FREEDOM FOR HIMSELF...

SAY, ABEL...

EEH?

CESTVS ISN'T THAT KIND OF GUY. WHAT DO YOU EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT?

HE'LL SURELY TRY TO SUCK UP TO HIM.

IDIOT! IT'S THE EMPEROR!

HOW SO?

MIG-UEL.

JUST STOP, CHINO.

...

WHO SAID YOU COULD SLACK OFF?!

OI! IDIOTS!

IT SHOWS THE SORT OF POWER THE EMPEROR HOLDS...

I'M NEVER ALLOWED OUT BEYOND THE WALLS NORMALLY, EXCEPT FOR MATCHES...

THE PLACE I BELONG, AS A PERSON, IS WITHIN THOSE WALLS.

I WONDER WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

THE WALLS EH...

I COULD NEVER MANAGE WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE CITY.

THOSE WHO DON'T WISH TO BE INVOLVED, DON'T LOOK TO LEAVE.

THOSE WHO WISH TO PROJECT SOMETHING HERE, AIM TO HIDE IT

THEY LOOK TO CUT THEMSELVES OFF...

IT WAS BUILT HERE, THE DIVIDING LINE...

MY SKILLS ARE STILL LIMITED...

ON TOP OF THAT...

A WALL OF MY OWN TO FACE.

THE GREAT WALL KNOWN AS SOCIAL STATUS, THAT WHICH SEPARATES THE PEOPLE.

ONE DAY,
IT WILL TRULY
COME TO ME...

LIKE THAT, YOU'LL BE COMPLETELY WORN OUT BEFORE YOU CAN EVEN FIGHT.

YOU SEEM RATHER TROUBLED THERE.

DURING TIMES LIKE THIS YOU SHOULD RELAX.

YOU'RE VERY DILIGENT, AREN'T YOU?

RIGHT.

FIGHTING ISN'T ALL THERE IS IN THE WORLD.

IF YOU EASE UP, THEN YOUR SURROUNDINGS WILL APPEAR DIFFERENT TOO.

ゴゴゴ

LADY ROXANNE.

WHO ARE THEY? THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE...

WHAT AN ENORMOUS WALL.

IT'S THE MAISON TROUPE.

THEY'RE A GROUP OF TRAVELLING ENTERTAINERS WHO HAVE RISEN TO FAME IN ROME RECENTLY.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR INVITED THEM INTO THE CASTLE.

YOU SEE THE RED-HAIRED BOY OVER THERE, AMIDST THE TROUPE...

THEY'RE A VERY SKILLED PERFORMER AND SEEM TO BE REALLY POPULAR.

AH, IT'S THAT BRAT!

OH, YOU KNOW THEM?

WELL WELL.

IF IT ISN'T CESTVS, THE TINY BOXER.

HEH, YOU DISSA-POINT ME.

YOU DON'T KNOW MY ROLE?

ASHLEY.

SO WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

HOW STYLISH, TO MEET AGAIN AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE.

WHAT? I...

IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME RUNNING AN ERRAND EH, LITTLE BOY.

ASHLEY!

BOSS.

OKAY.

PRACTICE TIME.

COME ON.

WOW!

FEEL FREE TO CLAP.

LET'S GO.

HEY...

I'M SO IMPRESSIVE, I IMAGINE THAT YOU'VE FALLEN FOR MY MIGHTY VISAGE.

THAT WAS A TRIVIAL MATTER.

IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO COME.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE HASN'T IT, CESTVS.

I'VE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU, SO FOLLOW ME

IT'S FINE, YOU NEEDN'T BE SO FORMAL

AH WELL, YOUR MAJESTY

WE'RE HOLDING A COMPETITION TO SELECT THE BEST SCULPTOR

I KNEW THEY'D CATCH YOU CESTVS.

I'VE BEEN STUCK IN THIS SILLY DRESS FOR A WHILE.

WE GATHERED TOGETHER THE MOST SKILLED OF CRAFTSMEN, YET WERE UNABLE TO FIND THE PROPER MATERIALS, WELL, MODELS. SO WE TURNED TO YOU.

EH?

I WISH TO PRAISE THE HARMONY OF ROME WITH THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF THE ARTS.

THE ARTS ARE SURELY THE TREASURE OF HUMANITY.

I WAS REALLY CALLED FOR A JOB LIKE THIS...

はあ…

I'M NO GOOD FOR THIS BUT...

I'VE HIGH EXPECTATIONS THAT YOU'LL ALL DO A GOOD JOB.

#17

WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT FOR YOUR NEXT MATCH?

CESTVS.

ふう…

AFTER ALL, YOU TOOK SOME BLOWS, DIDN'T YOU.

YOU'VE A WALL AHEAD OF YOU...

I SEE IT NOW...

YOU RESIDE WITHIN THIS PLACE...

I SEE THAT YOU... YOU CAME ALONG ON THE SAME ORDERS AS I DID, YET YOU AND I ARE DIFFERENT...

YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO WILL FIGHT CONFIDENTALLY WITH ANYONE AT ANY TIME!

CHAPTER XI: THE PERFORMER

THINK LESS, AND USE YOUR STRENGTH SOME MORE.

ARE YOU GIVING UP ALREADY?

I CAN'T MOVE AT ALL, STAYING LIKE THIS IS TIRESOME.

I JUST DON'T GET IT.

YOU SHOULD CHANGE YOUR WAY OF THINKING.

THE ORIENTAL MARTIAL ARTS CULTIVATE AN ATTITUDE OF STEADFASTNESS THROUGH THEIR TRAINING METHODS YOU KNOW.

I'M HAPPY WITH MY CURRENT STYLE.

IT...

EEH! NO WAY!

THAT BLACK HAIRED CHILD IS ALSO FAIRLY CUTE.

THEY'RE A SLAVE-BOXER YOU KNOW.

コレ

コレ

RUSKA IS SURELY A SIGHT TO SEE, ISN'T HE.

H'm

PLEASE DON'T SIMPLY BE A HINDRANCE TO MY WORK.

H'm

H'm

AAH...

ABOUT THAT...

WERE IT NOT FOR THAT LONE SCAR OF YOURS, YOU WOULD BE PERFECT!

YOUR MAGNIFICENCE WOULD PUT MARS HIMSELF TO SHAME.

SEE, THERE ON YOUR CHEST.

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

NOT EVEN THAT WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR YOU...

THUMP

THUMP

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU...?

THUMP

OOH, IS THAT SO...

THIS BOY...

EVEN MY HEART FROZE OVER...

I WAS PARALYZED BY THE PAIN...

THE RAIN WAS SO COLD.

IT IS QUITE TIRING AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT...

I WAS JUST A LITTLE WORN OUT...

RIGHT, SHALL WE TAKE A BREAK THEN.

!!

SO YOU'RE FIDGETING NOW TOO, RUSKA.

...

THERE'S A BATHHOUSE FOR YOU TO CLEAN YOURSELF OFF IN UPON YOUR RETURN.

SUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR YOUR PRACTICE IS GOOD.

I'M GOING TO RUN FOR A BIT.

I CAN'T DO LONG RUNS AROUND HERE.

I'M PRACTISING AS I SAID I WOULD BUT...

BUT WOULD YOU BEAR WITH IT, JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE?

ニコ

...

I APOLOGISE FOR MY COMPULSIVE REQUEST, RUSKA.

BUT OF COURSE...

YOUR MAJ-ESTY.

Afranius Burrus

Praetorian Guard prefect and trusted advisor to Nero.

WHATEVER SHOULD WE TELL HER MAJESTY, THE EMPRESS DOWAGER?

LORD NERO'S DEVIANT GAZE IS SO HOPELESS A THING.

AND, THOSE VULGAR STREET PER-FORMERS ARE STILL HERE.

GOOD GRIEF...

THE MUSICAL THEATRE...

AND THE CHARIOT CONTESTS ARE NOT SATISFACTORY.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Philoso-pher and Nero's teacher.

IF WE OFFER SUCH COUNCIL THEN...

HER MAJESTY'S DISPOSITION IS SUCH THAT SHE WOULD SURELY ANGER AGAIN.

REGARDING THAT MATTER, SHE WILL SURELY, WITHOUT FAIL, HEAR OF SUCH THINGS.

YOUR EXCE-LLENCY...

...

CLENCH

YOU SPEAK OUT OF TURN. DO NOT BARGE IN HERE AS THOUGH IT WERE THE FIGHTER'S QUARTERS.

AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING THERE?

SHALL WE GO, MY GOOD SENECA?

YOU ARE BUT HIS MAJESTY'S BODYGUARD, BEST YOU ACT LIKE ONE.

GOT IT, YOU LOT!

THIS IS A MASSIVE, ONCE IN A LIFETIME JOB...

THE CURTAINS WILL RISE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!

IS THIS...

THE BATH HOUSE...?

THE EMPEROR HAS GRACIOUSLY OPENED UP THE BATH HOUSES! SO YOU CAN GO CLEAN OFF THE DIRT FROM THE JOURNEY...

IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE AUDIENCE.

ミャキ..

ミャキ..

ミャキ...

I NEED TO KEEP ON SHARPENING IT ALRIGHT, DON'T COMPLAIN.

ASHLEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?

AH SHUT UP, I HEAR YOU.

YOU'VE THE STAR ROLE AFTER ALL.

IT'S ALL SO DETAILED, SO GRANDIOSE.

DO THEY REALLY NEED A PLACE LIKE THIS JUST FOR PEOPLE TO WASH THEIR BODIES?

WATER'S COMING FROM ITS MOUTH...

CE...

!!

IF IT ISN'T ASHLEY.

OH...

DON'T...

COME OVER HERE SO CASUALLY!

HEY!

OI, WAIT, HOLD UP!

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE ANYONE HERE SO...

SORRY, DID I STARTLE YOU?

EH, WHY...?

DON'T COME OVER HERE!

HAA?!

OH...

EEH?!

AH...

AH!

DAMN IDIOT!

YOU...

WAIT NOW...

WA... WA...

!!

SHE HAS SUCH KILLING INTENT!

WHAT'S THIS...?!

SHE'S SO...

SO FAST!

WOOSH

THIS IS A SHOW OF SKILL, ISN'T IT?!

HAH.
HAH.
HAH.
HAH.
HAH.
HAH.
HAVING A GOOD LOOK THERE, ARE YOU?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
UH... AH...
WELL, LISTEN UP. DON'T SAY A WORD TO ANYONE.
NOT A WORD.
AH!
WHAT YOU SAW HERE TODAY, WAS THAT I AM A BOY, RIGHT?
UH... UH...
MM.

OW...

I WON'T SAY A THING, I'M SORRY!

IF... IF YOU REVEAL ANYTHING, THEN YOU'LL REGRET IT, ALRIGHT...

AH, ISN'T IT THIS GUY...

TRICK TRICK

DAMN IT.

YOU CAN STOP WITH THE APOLOGIES, IDIOT.

I DEFINITELY WON'T SAY A THING!

はぁ はぁ

ﾍﾟﾀ...

I SAW IT, WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?!

I... I SAW...

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THE THEATREGOER HAS INDEED BORN FRUIT.

UP TO NOW, THINGS HAVE GONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN.

THIS MUST BE AN ACT OF DIVINE WILL WHICH WE HAVE EARNED...

IT TRULY IS.

IT IS TOO FAVOURABLE AN EVENT TO NOT BE SEEN AS SOMEWHAT EERIE.

CORRECT. OUR JOB...

WILL BE TO DEAL WITH THE GREAT AMOUNT OF WORK THAT ARISES, ONCE THIS MATTER IS DEALT WITH.

IT WOULD BE BEST THAT WE CONCLUDE THIS MEETING ALREADY.

NO ONE WOULD EVER BELIEVE THAT THEIR MAIN PROFESSION WAS ASSASINATION.

INDEED...

IT IS A RISKY PLAN...

YET WE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT DIRTY OWN HANDS DIRECTLY.

AFTER THIS, WE MUST HASTEN OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL PREPARATIONS.

TO OUR LATE EMPEROR, HIS MAJESTY CLAUDIUS!

WELL THEN GENTLEMEN, SHALL WE NOT ONCE MORE SWEAR ALLEGIANCE?

THEN THE THRONE.

SHALL BE OPEN FOR THE TRUE SUCCESSOR

THE DETESTABLE USURPER SHALL FACE THE IRON HAMMER OF JUDGEMENT!

WHAT'S UP, ASHLEY?

ASHLEY

HE WASN'T LYING, WAS HE. ?

NUTHIN' BOSS

JUST A LITTLE DIZZY IS ALL...

BUT DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE BEING USED FOR THIS?

IT WILL BE YOUR FIRST MURDER AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT UNREA-SONABLE.

!!

THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR DREAM, IS IT NOT?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THEN...

WHY IT WAS THAT YOU HAD YOUR BEAUTIFUL HAIR CUT?

LIFE IS ABSO-LUTE, ASHLEY.

I WAS SCARED

I WAS MORTIFIED SO

I DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME A WOMAN...

ﾈﾊｯｯｯ...

AT LAST, THE TIME HAS COME. I SHALL KILL THE EMPEROR, I SHALL KILL ROME!

WATCH ME, MOTHER!

CHAPTER XI: THE PERFORMER - END

SAMURAI GESTVS
セスタス

CHAPTER XII: THE ASSASSIN

HAH.

HAH.

HAH

HAH.

SWSH

SWSH

GOOD MORNING.

YOU'RE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING.

ISN'T IT A BIT EARLY TO BE PRACTICING THE FLUTE TOO?

FUFU...

WELL YOU SEE... THIS HOBBY OF MINE, HAS SOME ACTUAL USE.

EVEN THOUGH IT MAY SEEM AS THOUGH I AM USELESS TO THE GUARDS...

IF SOMEONE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A PATROL, I CAN NOTIFY THEM VIA THE FLUITE.

THE SONG JUST NOW SHOWS THAT THINGS HAVE ENDED WITHOUT HITCH.

OOH, WELL LOOK WHO IT IS.

WHAT SORT OF SONG IS IT THAT THE PETTY THIEF'S COME OUT TO LISTEN TO?

YOU AND THAT WOMAN THERE LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING AN AWFUL LOT OF FUN THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING, AIN'T THAT RIGHT?

HEY, LADY-KILLER

HEY...

?

THAT'S BECAUSE... YOU WERE SHOWING IT OFF...

ﾌﾐｭｳｳ...

WHY THE HELL HAVE YOU GONE ALL RED YOU MORON...!

I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY, ASHLEY!

ERM...

GEH. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS CRAP. SERIOUSLY...

AH, WAIT UP!

AS SHE SEEMS SOMEWHAT JEALOUS, I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW.

THAT GIRL IS IN A WONDER-FUL MOOD THEN.

EH?

THERE'S ALL SORTS OF REASONS WHY IT'S HARD BEING A WOMAN ALL OVER THE WORLD!

THIS IS GETTING BORING, ARE YOU ACTUALLY LISTENING?!

BEING A WOMAN IS NOTHING BUT A DISAD-VANTAGE.

TCH. YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD...

OH, IS THAT SO?

YOU WANNA HEAR THE STORY?

IT WAS ALL THANKS TO THE ROMAN ARMY'S PUSH TO EXPAND THEIR TERRITORY.

THE ONLY FUTURE YOU HAVE IS AS A PROST-ITUTE.

BEING AN ORPHAN IS WORSE YET.

SO... YOU'RE ALSO AN ORPHAN THEN...

THE PROUD PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY WERE BOUGHT AND SOLD AS THOUGH THEY WERE CATTLE.

THOSE WHO COULDN'T WORK, LIKE CHILDREN, WERE CHEAP.

AFTER THAT IT WAS THE USUAL DEAL.

...

ALL OF MY COMRADES SUFFERED THE SAME...

I KNOW THAT WELL...

EH?

YOU'RE JUST LIKE SOMEONE APPRAISING A SLAVE WOMAN AT AUCTION.

MY HAIR COLOUR IS MY MOTHER'S LEGACY... IT'S A RARE TYPE.

THAT SAID, WON'T YOU HAVE ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS PRETENDING TO BE A BOY?

IT SEEMS ESPECIALLY WASTEFUL WHAT WITH YOUR PRETTY HAIR AND ALL.

I... I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'D SAY SUCH A THING...

STAY BACK!

IT BELONGS TO THE RED-HAIRED WOMEN OF THRACE.

TRY AND GUESS HOW MANY OF US THERE WERE?

EVEN THOUGH I HATE MEN, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACT AS ONE!

I AM JUST A MISERABLE WOMAN.

YOU THINK I'D BE HERE, ACTING THE CLOWN, IF I LIKED IT?!

WE'RE BOTH MEANT TO BE MEN, SHOULDN'T WE BE HAPPY?!

I DON'T NEED YOUR APOLOGIES.

ASHLEY.

I'M SO-RRY

WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU TRY AND PITY ME?!

BRITANNICUS... IT'S NOT FINE!

YOUR HAIR STYLE IS FINE LIKE THAT, ISN'T IT?

SISTER DEAR, IT'S ALREADY TIME FOR LUNCH...

JUST TIE YOUR HAIR UP.

YOU'RE SUCH AN INSENSITIVE BOY.

The brother and sister were the children of the late emperor.

Brita-nnicus

The Empress Octavia's younger brother.

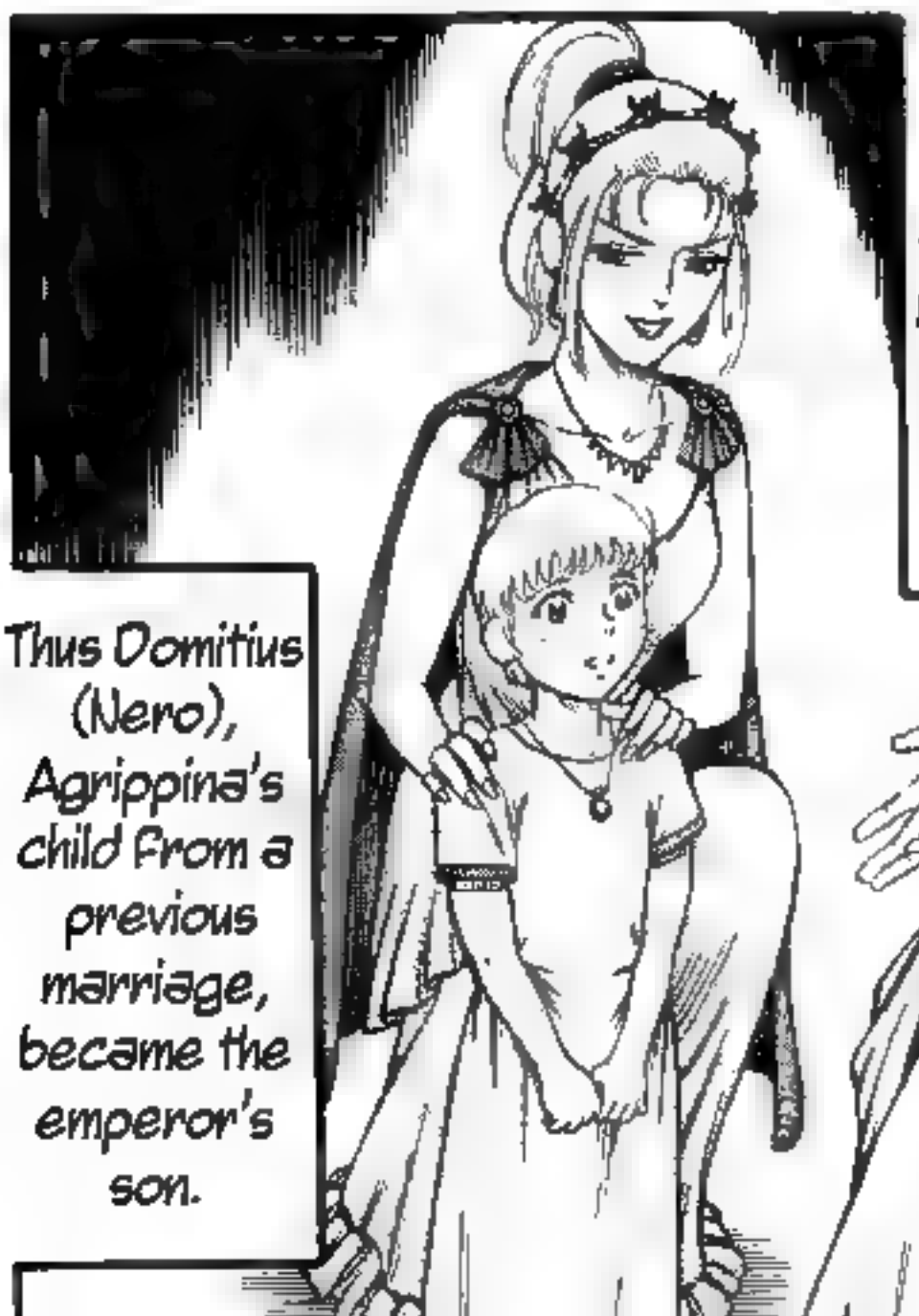
Age 13.

He was 50 years old when enthroned as the Fourth Emperor of the Roman Empire.

Their Father's name was Claudius.

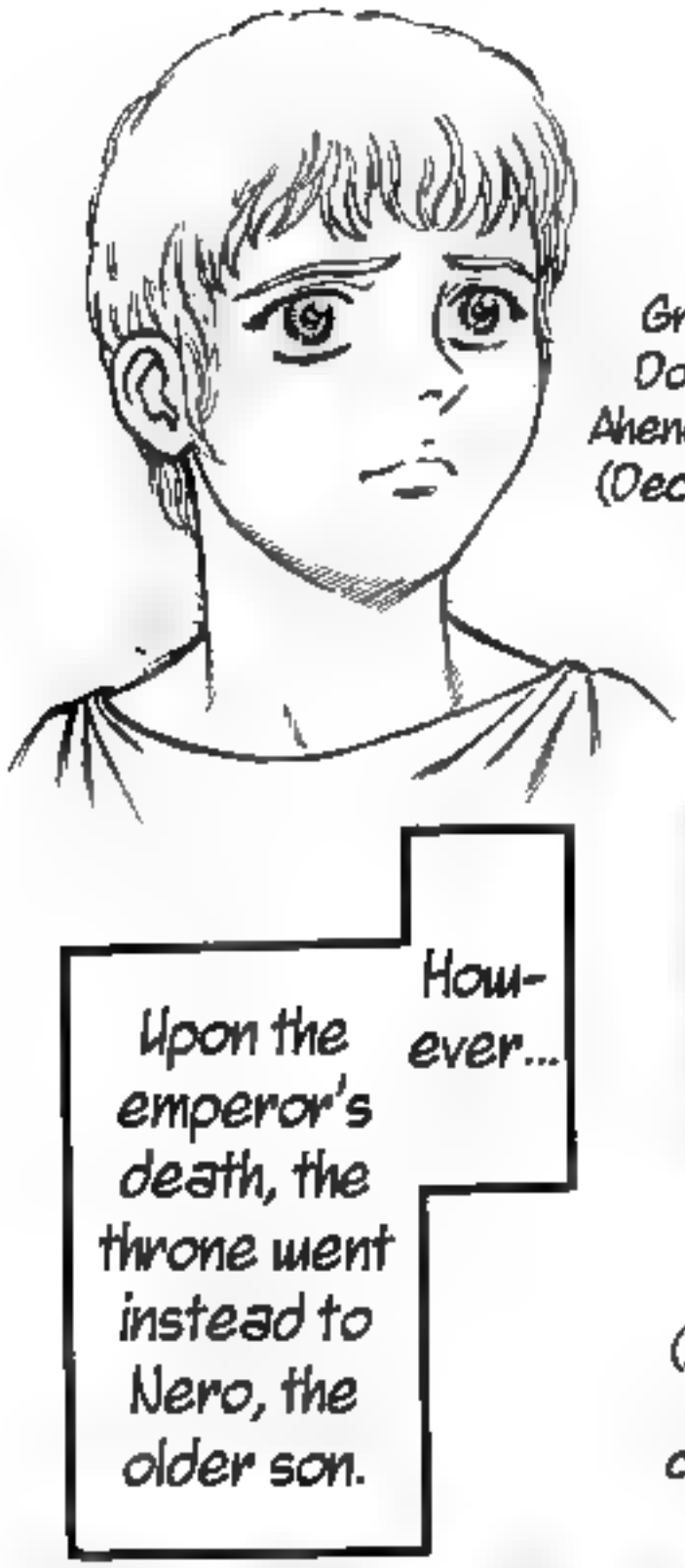
Believed to have had numerous children with her other partners, she was eventually excecuted for planning an insurrection.

The pair's mother was the Empress Messalina. A bad wife who was said to run wild till exhaustion; she never showed any concern for her timid husband.



Thus Domitius (Nero), Agrippina's child from a previous marriage, became the emperor's son.

Afterwards Claudius took his niece, the widow Agrippina, as his wife.



Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus (Deceased)

Agrippina

Claudius

Messalina (Deceased)

Originally, Claudius' biological son, Britannicus was expected to succeed the throne.

Second Marriage

Britannicus

Nero

Octavia

Marriage

(As Octavia and Nero were step siblings, they were initially unable to marry. To circumvent this Octavia was adopted into another family.)

How-ever...

Upon the emperor's death, the throne went instead to Nero, the older son.

This sudden reversal was brought about by a meticulous scheme.

A scheme conceived by a powerful woman, much different in character to Claudius' previous wife.

WHO'S ACTUALLY THE EMPEROR?

HE'S JUST HIS MOTHER'S PUPPET, ISN'T HE?

ENOUGH ALREADY! JUST STOP CARING ABOUT WHAT THAT GUY THINKS!

I WONDER IF THIS SUITS ME...

REALLY LIKE THIS GRECIAN STYLE ATTIRE?

WILL LORD NERO...

I SHOULD'VE BEEN THE ONE TO SUCCEED THE THRONE...

YET EVEN MY DEAR ELDER SISTER IS HAVING SUCH BITTER THOUGHTS.

BUT THIS WAS A GIFT...

THE GOOD EMPRESS DOWAGER BESTOWED UPON ME.

IT'S FINE TO BE ANGRY WITH ME BRITANNICUS...

FATHER'S DEATH ALSO SEEMS UNNATURAL.

THAT'S IT, IF THAT WOMAN HAD...

STOP IT NOW!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT'S ALL BEEN TOO GOOD SISTER?

THINGS ARE SHADY AREN'T THEY?

WELL?

...

I SHALL HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

YOU MAY SPEAK WITHOUT RESTRAINT, DEMITORIOUS.

NEVER AGAIN...

STOP IT BRITA-NNICUS.

I'M SORRY SISTER...

I DON'T WISH TO HEAR SUCH TALK...

NEVER BRING IT UP AGAIN...

YOU MAY LEAVE.

THE INFORMATION I BRING IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

WOULD YOU FIRST DISMISS YOUR AIDES.

YOU SEEM LACKING IN VALOUR RIGHT NOW.

WHATEVER IS THE MATTER? YOUR EXPRESSION HAS CHANGED.

HURRY!

AT PRESENT, WE FACE A RACE AGAINST TIME.

MY LADY...

ミナ…!!
ZZ
ZZ
ZZ
ミ!!!
!!0
!!0

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SENSE OF UNEASE I FEEL ?
DAMN IT SOMETHING'S OFF

EVERYTHING'S SO CLEAR I CAN'T SLEEP AT ALL
TONIGHT WILL BE THE DEAD OF NIGHT

THE SHOT FROM EARTH HASN'T LEFT ME ALL DAY

WHY WOULD I WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

WHY

!!

HH

SOMEHOW THOUGH, I NEED TO DO SOMETHING

IT CAN'T BE!

WHERE EXACTLY ARE YOU GOING?!

MOTHER, HERE I GO!

DEATH TO ROME!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

TOO BAD FOR YOU.

I CAN'T MOVE!

I'M A BODY DOUBLE.

I WON'T GO EASY ON A THUG LIKE YOU.

ﾌﾝﾇ..

ﾌﾝﾇﾇ..

LET'S BREAK THIS ARM OF YOURS...

FIRST OF ALL...

CHAPTER XII: THE ASSASSIN - END

CHAPTER XIII: THE PRISONER

AARGH!

SUCH A FRAIL ARM, IT'D BREAK IF I PULLED ON IT.

SO THEY'RE A CHILD ASSASSIN.

THEY'RE A GIRL?!

HAH.

HAH.

HAH

THEY'RE SO SMALL AND FRAGILE IT'S ALMOST LIKE

THEY CAN'T BE ANY YOUNGER THAN I AM

SHNG!

THEY GOT ME

DAMN IT I'VE JUST GOT TO GIVE UP NOW

THEY JUMPED OFF!

SURROUND THEM BELOW!

...!

I WON'T ASK WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING TO DO THERE

SO PLEASE

THROW AWAY YOUR SWORD, ASHLEY

ARE YOU GONNA GET IN MY WAY, CESTVS?!

S... SHUT IT!

I DEFINITELY WON'T MOVE!

NO!

ASHLEY

MOVE!

ELSE I'LL KILL YOU TOO!

YOU'RE NOT SUITED FOR MURDER

CESTVS.

HUH.

I LIKE ASHLEY THE PERFORMER!

I LIKE YOU!

WHAT WOULD SOMEONE WHO'S PALS WITH THE EMPEROR KNOW?!

SHUT IT! DON'T TALK AS IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING

AFTER ALL YOU'RE REALLY

WHEN YOU DID THAT PERFOR-MANCE IT SUITED YOU SO WE...

ASHLEY

BUT YOU WANT ME TO START ALL OVER AGAIN?!

THE WHOLE REASON I'VE LIVED TILL NOW WAS FOR THIS DAY!

SAY
3..
5:30 T
ALREADY
ASLEY

ASHLEY!

"

TEAR

SLICE

FLOP

HAH... AH...

TIE THIS ONE UP!

NICE GOING KID!

GOOD GOOD

THEY'RE JUST SOME DAMN BRAT

COME ON, STAND AND WALK

JUST WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

TELL ME TEACHER.

A GIRL.

I STRUCK DOWN...

THE VILLANS HAVE ALL BEEN ARRESTED AND ARE AT PRESENT IN JAIL

YOU MAY REST AT EASE KAISER.

THE THREAT HAS ALREADY BEEN REMOVED

SUCH QUICK THINKING AND VALIANT EFFORTS SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

WE'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT EASE TONIGHT.

YOU HAVE DONE A GREAT GOOD DEMITRIUS

WITH SUCH A HERO PRESENT IT IS AS TRULY AS THOUGH THE EMPEROR HAS THE STRENGTH OF A HUNDRED MEN.

RIGHT NERO?

IT SEEMS WE SHOULD TAKE THIS CHANCE AND PURGE THE IMPERIAL COURT OF ANY LURKING SERPENTS.

THRILLINGLY TH NGS HAVE TURNED ON THE R HEAD!

INDEED

YOU SAW THAT THOSE TRAVELLING PERFORMERS WERE REALLY A GROUP OF ASSASSINS...

YOU SAW THROUGH IT ALL FROM THE START THEN?!

THIS NO GOOD...

IS .

ﾋｬ!

CALL IT THE SHALLOW WIT OF A FIGHTER.

IS THAT SO. !

I WOULD BE HUMBLED IF YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ESTEEMED PREFECT BURRUS WERE TO TAKE SUCH COUNSEL ..

I KNOW! WORRY NOT ABOUT THE MEANS, JUST...

HAVE THEM REVEAL JUST WHO THE RINGLEADERS ARE WITHIN AN INSTANT!

NOW THEN I WONDER

JUST HOW WE SHOULD TORTURE THOSE ASSASSINS...

AT ONCE

BY OUR HANDS WE'LL BRING THIS TO A CLOSE

SEIZE THE RINGLEADERS AT ONCE AND REGAIN YOUR HONOUR!

SHOW ME YOUR WORTH!

BURRUS!

...

...

IF YOU TELL US THE TRUTH YOU'LL BE SPARED

THAT'S RIGHT ..

MY INTERESTS MATCHED WITH THE RS.

I'VE WANTED TO TAKE MY REVENGE ON ROME FOR YEARS!

NO WAY!

HALF OF IT WAS OF MY OWN DEVIS NG!

AFTER ALL, THIS WAS THE ONLY PATH OPEN TO ME

BUT ASHLEY

WHO CARES ANYWAY .

COMPARED TO THE EVIL OF THE ROMAN ARMY.

A HITMAN MAKES FOR A FAIRLY LOVELY TRADE DON'T IT?

T/N: FATHER IS WRITTEN HERE WITH THE KANJI FOR STEP-FATHER

I'M NOT SO ROTTEN THAT I'D SELL OUT MY OWN FATHER!

YOU'VE MISJUDGED ME!

HOWEVER WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THE RING-LEADERS' IDENTITY'

PLEASE PARDON ME FOR INTRUDING UPON YOUR MEAL

JUST WHAT CAN I DO...?!

THE FIVE INCLUDED AN ADMINASTRATIVE OFFICAL, A GUARD AND A FREED SLAVE'

THEY WERE A FACTION WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE LATE EMPEROR CLAUDIUS

T/N. FATHER HERE IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR STEPFATHER

WH. WHAT IS THIS?'

HAVE THEY ALL BEEN CAUGHT?'

WHY WOULD FATHER'S FOLLOWERS TRY FOR MY ?'

I REALLY CAN'T DO A THING...

WH... WHAT WAS THAT?!

AND ALL COMMITED SUICIDE BY POISON.

THE RING-LEADER'S REFUSED TO BE TAKEN ALONG JUST NOW

YOUR MAJESTY

IT MUST BE A MISTAKE.

SISTER

YOU DAMN..

YOU HAVE FAILED TO FINISH THE MATTER.

YOUR EXCELLENCY BURRUS

LORD NERO ..

WHY WOULD THEY .?

BUT WHY?!

...

IN THAT CASE, AT LEAST .

THOUGH ISN'T THIS A RATHER ANTICLIMATIC WAY TO END IT ALL?

WELL, I SUPPOSE WE'VE SAVED TIME ON THEIR EXECUTIONS ..

FUFU.

FU..

WILL HAVE A FITTING END.

THE ASSASSINS...

ガッ ガッ ガッ

EVEN IF THEY WERE MEANT TO BE ASSASSINS ..

THEY WERE STILL THIRD RATE PERFORMERS WHO ATTACKED IN THE DARK.

THERE'S JUST NO WAY THEY'D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COMPETE WITH THE GLADIATORS, WHO ARE TRUE BUTCHERS.

チュッ

チュッ

ガチ!

ガチ

THEY WERE LOOKING TO COME AT YOUR HIGHNESS WITH A BLADE

ARE THEY REALLY A KILLER?!

HOW SURPRISING, THEY REALLY ARE JUST A CHILD

ASHLEY

...

BOSS .

EVERY-ONE..

IT'LL BE A QUICK, FLASHY FIGHT!

THIS BRAT'S THE LAST ONE

I MUST REFUSE FATHER...

YOU FAILED TO CAPTURE THEM, SO THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

RUSKA!

WAIT RUSKA!

YOU MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED IT.

BUT THEY'RE ACTUA-LY..

WOULDN'T IT DIRTY ONE OF THE MILITARY?

...

I CAN SHOW YOU THAT HE'S NOT AN ASSASSIN!

LET ME FIGHT WITH THEM!

CHAPTER XIV: SWORD DANCE

DON'T WORRY ASHLEY

I WON'T HIT YOU AGAIN.

?!

I DON'T NEED MY FISTS TO DEAL WITH YOU..

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KILL ME WITH A SMALL, TOY BLADE LIKE THAT.

AFTER ALL...

SO YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME?!

WH...

WHAT WAS THAT?! DAMN YOU...

COME ON AND FALL FOR IT!

WAS IT VEXING...

TO BE PUNCHED BY SOME LITTLE BOY?

DID ME GETTING IN THE WAY PISS YOU OFF?

THAT'S IT ASHLEY...

DON'T YOU KNOW WE'VE AN AUDIENCE NOW!

COME ON AND SHOW YOUR PRECIOUS PERFORMANCE FOR THE LAST TIME!

WHAT'S WITH THIS DAMN WEIRD... ACT OF YOURS?!

I DON'T... HATE YOU, AND YET...!

SEEING THAT CHILD MAKING USE OF SUCH PROVOCATIONS IN A FIGHT...

IT'S ODD

WHAT AN UNUSUAL SCENE.

...

CESTUS.

HE'S JUST PUTTING ON A SHOW TO KILL SOME TIME

I'M SORRY FOR HIM BUT

LIKE THIS I'LL JUST BE EXCECUTED.

I'LL KILL YOU!

WELL WHY DON'T YOU BRING IT ON THEN!

EACH BLADE IS ABOUT THE LENGTH..

OF TWO FISTS

SHE'S GOT DOUBLE EDGED BLADES.

IN BOTH HANDS

AS THAT OF AN

MY [illegible] BECOMES A [illegible] "ZEN"

[illegible] MAKES [illegible] ME

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR

BUT

SHE'S SHARP!

HER SKILLS FROM BEFORE ARE TRULY DEADLY!

WHAT'S THE MATTER CESTVS?!

WHY AREN'T YOU TAK NG A STANCE?!

IF I WERE I'D LOSE CONCEN-TRATION!

IF I'M TOO SLOW TO RESPOND FOR EVEN A MOMENT...

A SINGLE INJURY COULD PROVE FATAL!

ARE YOU JUST FUCKING AROUND WITH ME?!

COME ON DAMN IT!

CESTVS.

HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COUNTER ATTACK.

WHY WON'T ZAFAR'S PUPIL ATTACK?!

AS I FIGURED, THAT CHILD

WHAT A FOOL!

HE CAN'T STRIKE BACK...

AS HE'S FIGHTING A GIRL...

YOUR OWN WILL-POWER

SUPRESS IT DOWN WITH

DON'T DISTURB YOUR BREATHING CESTVS

IT'LL BE AS THOUGH YOUR WHOLE BODY IS CONSUMED BY A DEMON.

FEAR WILL AMPLIFY YOUR FATIGUE

IF YOU'RE STARTLED IT'LL CLOUD YOUR JUDGE-MENT

HOLD YOUR COURAGE AS YOU FACE THEIR KILLING INTENT.

DON'T TURN ASIDE YOUR GAZE! ASCERTAIN YOUR OPPONENTS BLADE...

GRIT IS THE CORNERSTONE OF DEFENCE

I'M SLOWLY GETTING IT MASTER!

IT'S ONLY A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME BUT..

ARGH!

BASTAAAAPO!

YOU SEEMED TO BE FALLING SO

HAA.

HAA

I'M SORRY

HAA.

WHAT A DISSAPOINTING ASSASSIN HE IS!

ARE YOU COMPLETELY RETARDED?!

SO THAT'S YOUR MOTIVE..

AND HE'S NOT PLAYING AROUND EITHER!

HE'S BEEN UNABLE TO LAND A BLOW EVEN THOUGH HIS OPPONENT'S NOT FIGHTING

EXTOLLED BY THE WHOLE GREEK FIGHTING WORLD.

THERE WAS ONCE A MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTER, WHO WAS...

MELANKOMAS OF CARIA.

AN UNDEFEATED FIGHTING MASTER.

207TH OLYMPIAD, 48 BC.

THE BOXING CHAMPION.

I'LL PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR NATURALLY KEEN PERCEPTION BUT...

DAMN IT ALL

THOSE EYES

STOP IT!

STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT

HAH

THE THE BASTARD !

HAH.

IDIOT, DON'T CRY!

AAAH!
AAAA
A
A

!

I'M DONE.

THAT'S IT, STOP!

NOW, FINISH THIS...!

HAA.

HAA.

HAA.

HAA.

HAA.

THANKS... FOR KEEPING "THAT" A SECRET...

SEEYA LATER, CESTVS...

SORRY, ASHLEY.

I'M...

...

!

HE S NOT AN ASSASS N!

YOUR MAJES-TY!

I ASK THAT ASHLEY'S DEATH SENTENCE BE REVOKED!

EVEN THOUGH I DID NOTH NG UNTILL THE END ..

IS THERE EVEN A SINGLE WOUND ON MY BODY?

PLEASE SEE YOUR MAJESTIES...

IT'S FAR FROM A FIGHTING TECHNIQUE...

IT'S REALLY S JUST A DANCE.

HIS SK LL S JUST A S.MPLE SWORD DANCE.

...

SO KID, RIGHT AT THE END YOU'VE TRIED TO PLEAD WITH MERE SOPHISTRY

WASN'T I ALWAYS SAFE?

GIVEN THAT..

!

HE CAN'T DECEIVE OUR EYES...

HIS EXCUSES ARE FAR TOO UNREASONABLE

WHAT'S WITH HIM. .

SUCH TALK IS MUCH TOO RASH, THIS IS NO GOOD AT ALL!

WELL .

THAT'S

!

IF THAT'S SO CESTVS .

THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT THIS BOY BROKE INTO THE EMPEROR'S BEDCHAMBER LAST NIGHT?

SUCH SPECIAL SKILLS WOULDN'T BE NEEDED TO KILL A SLEEPING PERSON NOW WOULD THEY?

I WOULD LIKE A CONVINC NG EXPLANATION, IF YOU WOULD.

A PERFORMER WITHOUT MALICE

WHAT KIND OF REASON WOULD THEY HAVE FOR ASSAULTING THE SLEEPING EMPEROR?

ELSE YOU'LL BE KILLED TOO

STOP IT CESTVS.

AH... WELL...

UH... AH.

GLADIATORS!

...

SEVER THE REDHEAD'S NECK!

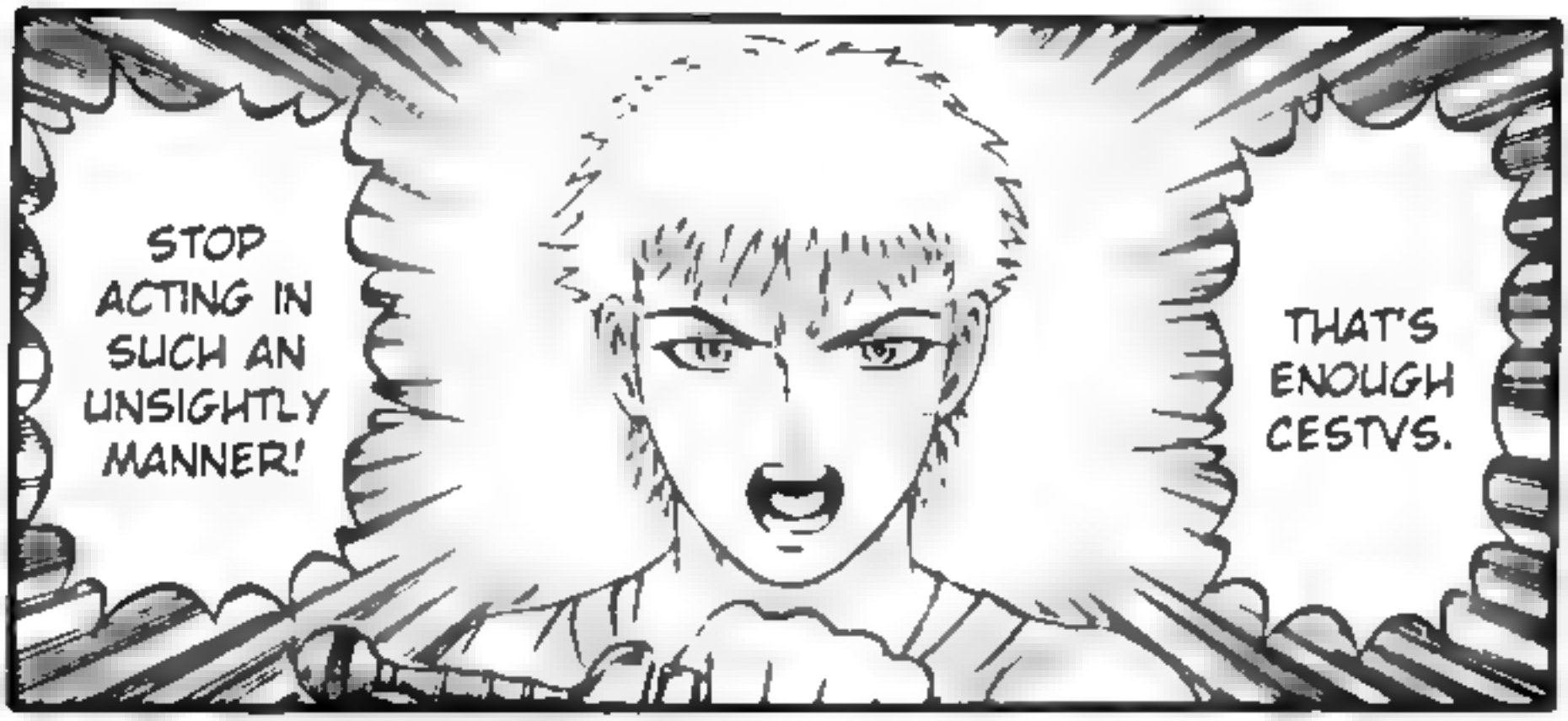
IT'S SAD, BUT IT WAS ALWAYS USELESS TO TRY AND PROTECT HER.

WAIT, PLEASE!

W

DON'T KILL ASHLEY!

DON'T KILL THEM


STOP ACTING IN SUCH AN UNSIGHTLY MANNER!
THAT'S ENOUGH CESTVS.

LET ME HANDLE THIS!
WAS YOUR NEXT CLUMSY DEFENCE GOING TO BE TO PLEAD WHILE CRYING YOUR EYES OUT?
RJSKA.
CHAPTER XIV SWORD DANCE - END

学園黙示録 GESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER XV: PERJURY

PLEASE, HELP HER!

HELP ASHLEY...

PLEASE RUSKA...

IDIOT, STOP IT!

CESTVS

COULD YOU STEP ASIDE

I DON'T WANT YOU PLEADING TO ME

YOU'VE NO AUTHORITY OVER ME, DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME BEGGING.

THE GLADIATORS NEEDN'T INTERFERE!

I'LL BE THE ONE TO SETTLE TH S!

FATHER!

RUSKA!

!

!

SHE'S A GIRL!

Ah

YOU BEGGED THAT I TAKE CARE OF HER, CESTVS.

IT'S A SHAME, BUT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY.

I SHALL HERE ACKNOWLEDGE MY HIDDEN SHAME

YOUR MAJESTIES THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS DOWAGER.

ERM.

オロ

オロ

WHA...

DAMN YOU... THAT'S NOT...!

THIS GIRL AND I HAD RELATIONS

?

LAST NIGHT, IN HIS MAJESTY'S ROOM..

!

IT'S TRUE THAT SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE ASSASSINS...

AND SHE HAD INDEED BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE HIS MAJESTY'S LIFE

BUT WHAT'S THE FUSS?

SHUT UP!

RELA. TIONS

WHAT SORT OF RELA-TIONS?

SHUT IT!

HOW DARE HE DO NOTHING BUT L E!

HOWEVER HER REASON FOR ENTERING HIS MAJESTY'S ROOM LAST NIGHT WAS DIFFERENT.

TH. THE BASTARD.

YOU SEE SHE HAD DECIDED TO BETRAY HER COMRADES, AND SWITCH ALLEGIANCES

AND SO MISTAKINGLY BELIEVED THAT I WAS ACTUALLY HIS MAJESTY

SHE NAIVELY BELIEVED THAT, WERE SHE TO SELL HERSELF, HER WISH OF ASYLUM WOULD BE GRANTED

...?

THAT IS THE TRUTH OF HOW I FELL TO TEMPTATION.

HOWEVER SHE NOTICED QUICKLY AND FLED AT ONCE...

I TRIED TO PROTECT MY OWN INTERESTS, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR REMAINING SILENT.

OF ALL THAT I'D SELL MYSELF... THE THINGS HE COULD SAY...

ポル

ポル

RUSKA IS QUITE THE RISK-TAKER.

TO THINK HE'D TRY SUCH A SLY TRICK...

ISN'T IT UNACEPTABLE THAT TH S GIRL BE SENTENCED TO DEATH?

YOUR MAJES-TY

PLEASE, GRANT ME PUNISHMENT INSTEAD FOR FORGETTING MY DUTY.

THAT'S...

ENTIRELY A LIE!

RUSKA

PLEASE MAJESTY, IN YOUR COMPASSION GRANT HER THE PATH OF SALVATION.

SHE' A PITIABLE GIRL WHO WAS MERELY ACTING N HER OWN NTERESTS

MM.. HMM.

BASTARD, DID YOU REALLY AIM TO COVER UP YOUR OWN FAILINGS?!

THIS IS A SERIOUS INCIDENT WHICH YOU'RE LAUGHABLY TRYING TO SIDESTEP!

IF YOU'RE ATTEMPTING PERJURY HERE THEN YOU'LL LOSE YOUR HEAD AT ONCE, RUSKA!

IT'S POINTLESS TO TRY AND THREATEN ME, FATHER.

BY ALL MEANS DO WHAT YOU WANT...

THE LIFE OF A BODY DOUBLE IS CHEAP AFTER ALL

SAVE ME FATHER..

DON'T...

DON'T ABANDON ME..

DAMN HIM.

IF THIS IS MEANT TO BE A MOVING, HUMAN STORY THEN YOU'D BE BETTER OFF SHOWING IT AT THE THEATRE

HOW LONG DO YOU WANT US TO CONTINUE WITH THIS CHARADE FOR?

AHAHA!

B BUT MOTHER.

LET US RETURN TO THE PALACE, NERO

I'VE GROWN TIRED OF THIS.

ENOUGH, IT'S FINE.

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH!

I AM THE REASON FOR YOUR LIFE BEING TARGETED.

I'VE STILL NOT GOTTEN TO THE HEART OF THE INCIDENT YET

HAVE THE GIRL EXILED!

DO YOU KNOW SOME-THING MOTHER?

MOTHER?

"!!"

ZUSKA

MM...

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T CRY SO MUCH.

FOR SAVING ASHLEY.

THANK YOU...

グス：

WE'LL BE SAYING FAREWELL HERE...

ASHLEY

CESTUS

BUT LET'S MEET AGAIN OKAY?

SOME DAY, SOME-WHERE, FOR SURE

AARGH!

GYAHAHAHA! SERVES YOU RIGHT!

NOW WE'RE EVEN!

NO!!

MUCH OBLIGED THOUGH, SHORTY.

MEET-ING AGAIN EH...

AH THAT'S

I'M AN EXILE THOUGH...

WE CAN'T MEET AGAIN!

DAMN IDIOT...

RED HAIRED ASHLEY.

SO LONG...

T/N: FATHER IS WRITTEN HERE WITH THE KANJI FOR STEPFATHER.

WHY WERE FATHER'S FOLLOWERS...

AFTER MY LIFE?

カタ カタ..

カタ

I DON'T GET IT.

A RATHER IRONIC FINAL RESTING PLACE...

THE OLD EMPEROR WAS INDULGING IN A BANQUET...

HIS DEATH WAS SO SUDDEN.

THE LAST EMPEROR

THIS LED TO HIM CHOKING IN AN UNSIGHTLY WAY.

AS A GOURMAND, HE HAD A BAD HABIT WHERE IN HE WOULD REGURGITATE FOOD IN ORDER TO EAT MORE...

GET BACK NERO!

FATHER!

KO HAAH

GAH

FATHER!

QUICKLY, CALL FOR A PHYSICIAN!

IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT...?!

BUT WHAT IF...

AND HE PASSED ON TO THE NEXT WORLD

MOTHER CALMY TRIED TO TREAT HIM, BUT IT WAS TO NO AVAIL

FOR MY SAKE■?!

WHAT IF MOTHER HAD POISONED THE FOOD

SO IT WAS REVENGE THEN?!

!

TAKE CARE

YOUR MAJES-TY

NO DON'T WORRY... IT'S TIRESOME BEING BY MYSELF.

PHEW

AM I INTRUDING?

I'M SORRY YOUR MAJES-TY

EH.

SO MUCH SO I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO SLEEP

MM .. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT

THE STATUE WILL SOON BE DONE WON'T IT

TOMORROW MORNING I'LL RETURN TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL

MY SERVICE TO YOU WILL ALSO BE OVER SOON.

DON'T ..

STAY BY MY SIDE.

YOUR MAJES-TY?

DON'T GO, CESTVS!

I BEG YOU!

I COULD BUY YOU COULDN'T I.

YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND ME RIGHT ?

YOU COULD THEN SERVE ME ALONE

I I KNOW I'... GRANT YOU YOUR FREEDOM!

AND FORLON.

I'M SO LONELY

NOR FRIENDS

I'VE NO FATHER NOR BROTHERS

I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO CHOOSE MY OWN CONSORT

EVERYTHING'S DECIDED BY MY MOTHER.

I'M JUST HERE ALL BY MYSELF

I CAN'T BEAR IT ALL I CAN DO IS STUDY MUSIC TO TRY AND DISTRACT MYSELF

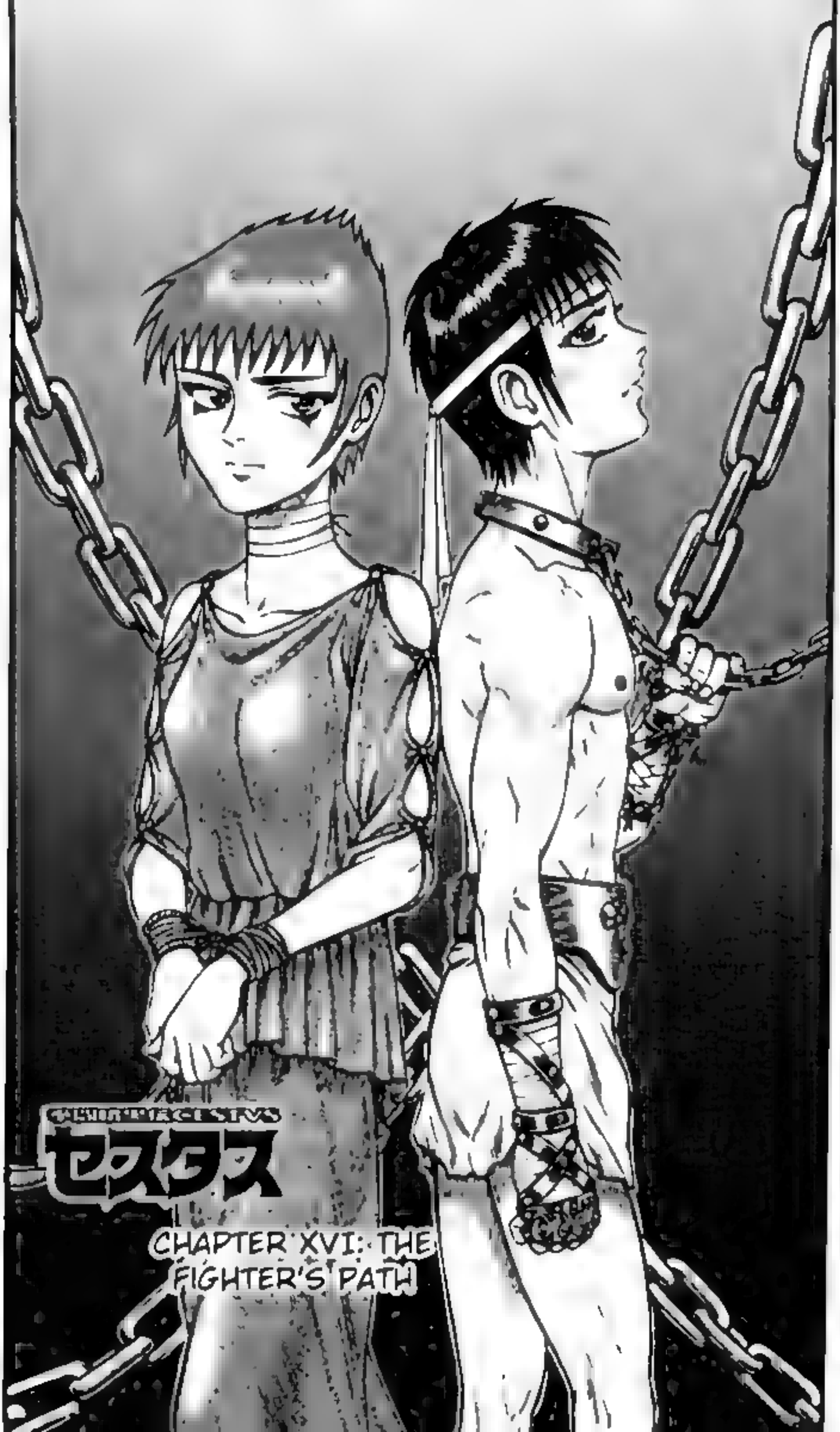
PLEASE DON'T GO ANYWHERE

Y... YOU WOULDN'T EVEN NEED TO DO ANYTHING, I WOULDN'T MAKE YOU DO ANYTHING WHICH YOU DIDN'T WANT TO

THE HEART'S OF THOSE AROUND ME ARE SIMPLY UNFORGIV-ABLE

BUT I JUST CAN'T STAY SO ALONE!

CHAPTER XV FEBRUARY - END


SAINT SEIYA
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CHAPTER XVI: THE
FIGHTER'S PATH

I'M SORRY YOUR MAJESTY...

THOUGH IT PAINS ME... I MUST DECLINE.

BUT WHY CESTVS?!

A LIFE MORE LUXURIOUS THAN EVEN THE NOBILITY'S IS CERTAINLY DESIRABLE, HOWEVER

IT'D BE EXTRAORDINARY FOR YOU, AS A FREEMAN, TO BE ATTENDING THE EMPEROR.

DO YOU NOT LONG FOR LIBERATUS?

YOU'D BE FREE!

N. NOT AT ALL.

うう…

IS IT THAT YOU DESPISE ME?

IT WOULD BE NO GOOD FOR I ALONE TO BE SO BLESSED BY YOUR MAJESTY...

I HAVE MY MASTER AND COMRADES WAITING FOR ME AFTER ALL..

INSIDE THOSE WALLS.

FOR MY RETURN...

WHILE MY COMRADES ENDURED THE SAME PAIN THAT I DID.

MY MASTER RAISED ME LIKE A PARENT

WE'RE LIKE BROTHERS WHO DREAM OF THE SAME TOMORROW...

#2

BUT YOU'RE NOT BLOOD RELATED ARE YOU?

WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT SENSE OF DUTY THEN...?

IF I WERE TO GIVE IN TO TIMIDITY AND FLEE..

I WOULD MERELY END UP BEING DRIVEN TO AN UNFAVOURABLE PLACE.

LIKE THAT, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SURPASS THAT WALL OF M.NE.

I HAVE TO OVERCOME THAT WALL THROUGH MY OWN STRENGTH.

I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND THINGS A LITTLE..

T/N: WALL HERE IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "LIMITS".

I'LL GO AND CONFRONT THAT WALL OF MINE HEAD ON!

THAT'S WHY I WON'T AVERT MY GAZE. .

I... I AM ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE!

I AM THE CAESAR!

IS A MERE SLAVE REALLY REFUSING THE REQUEST OF THE EMPEROR?!

IT'S JUST TOO CRUEL.

IT JUST SEEMS LIKE AN EXCUSE TO REFUSE MY GOOD FAVOUR!

I'VE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN WITH THIS TALK OF WALLS

YOUR KINDNESS IS MORE THAN...

A MAN LIKE ME DESERVES.

YOUR MAJESTY...

I AM THANKFUL

...

...

PLEASE, EXCUSE ME

SEVERAL DAYS LATER

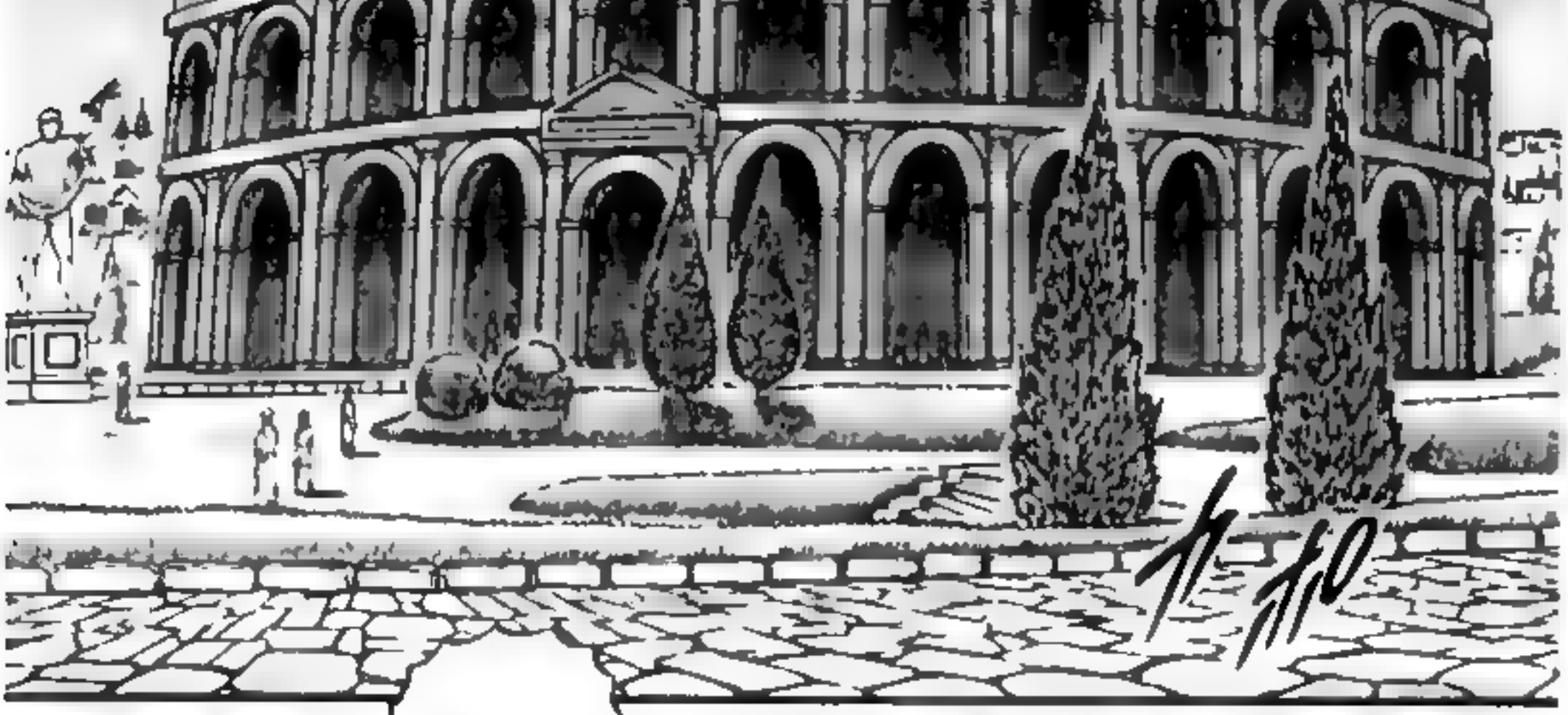
MM

YESTERDAY IT WAS SWORD FIGHTERS TODAY BOXERS

IT'S REALLY BURNING OVER THERE

SO THERE AT IT AGAIN TODAY

APP.APP



ARE YOU FIGHTING TODAY ?

CESTVS.

COULD YA STOP FOR A LITTLE BIT

HEY, MISTER.

DON'T SAY MY WAGE IS LOW

YOU'RE BEING LOUD BITCH.

CAN'T YA HEAR ME?! SMALL FRY, UNDERPAID FIGHTER!

STOP I SAID!

LEMME GO, PLEASE.

I'M GONNA PISS MYSELF

COME ON

GEEZ.

A PISS ..

LET ME DO MY BUSINESS...

TRY AND SPEAK PROPERLY, MISS

WHO'D BE FOOLED BY THAT EH?

DON'T LAUGH!

YOU SHOULD TRY AND BE MORE SENSIBLE IN YOUR DEALINGS

I AIN'T SAYING A THING.

TCH

UNTIL WE GET TO THE HARBOUR AT OSTIA YOU SHOULD JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE CART RIDE.

AT ANY RATE, THE BOAT WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO CORSICA ISLAND

LITTLE MISS REDHEAD

ゴト ゴト ゴト ゴト

THE AMOUNT YOU PRACTICE CAN MEAN LIFE OR DEATH.

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN NEGLIGENT N TAKING CARE OF THEMSELVES AND ENDED UP RUINED.

WHILE IT'S A SHAME, IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT THEY FAILED TO ADJUST.

YOU HAVE TO BE READY TO FIGHT NO MATTER THE CIRCUSTANCES

MY PHYSICAL CONDITION IS NOT A PROBLEM

UNDERSTOOD MASTER

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH A MIRACLE OF SORTS OCCURED IN THE PRACTICE GROUNDS!

HE JUST NEEDS TO PUT THE RESULTS OF HIS TRAINING INTO USE IN A MATCH NOW

HE'S UNUSUAL... I'M

MM

I'M OFF MASTER

GET OUT

CESTUS OF VALENS TRAINING SCHOOL

ALLO ALLO

JUST HOW SLOW ARE THESE ATTACKS?!

IT'S AS THOUGH HIS FISTS HAVE STOPPED

WITH THIS MANY OPEN-INGS

I CAN STRIKE AS MUCH AS I WANT!

JUST HOW MUCH DID YOU GAIN IN THOSE FEW DAYS WHICH I AM UNAWARE OF, CESTVS?

IT'S NOT ONLY HIS DEFENSIVE INTUITION WHICH HE'S POLISHED... JUST WHEN DID HE GATHER SUCH COURAGE IN THE FACE OF VICTORY OR DEFEAT...

IT'S THANKS TO YOUR HELP, ASHLEY.

I CAN SURPASS THAT WALL.

UNTIL THE DAY THAT

I WILL FIGHT...

NICELY DONE, CESTVS.

YOU DID A GOOD JOB OVERCOMING YOUR FEAR.

CONTINUE TO FIGHT!

SO YOU MUST STAY STRONG TOO...

WHO WAS IT YOU CALLED A BITCH EH!

LET'S KEEP ON LIVING, ASHLEY.

LIVE...!

おら
おら
おら
おら
I'LL CRUSH YA DAMN BALLS IN.
I'LL CASTRATE YOU, DAMN RAPISTS!
LO'N
フ'''''''
THINK I WOULD PUT UP WITH RETIREMENT AT MY AGE?'
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE TAKING THAT BUT I'D THOUGH

ASHLEY OF THRACE.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T FORGET..

DON'T THINK I'VE GIVEN UP ON MY REVENGE THOUGH.

I'LL KEEP YOU IN MIND, CESTVS.

AND DON'T DIE EITHER!

I DRANK TOO MUCH, CESTVS.

IT'S MORNING...?

NO, IT'S ALREADY...

LONG PAST MIDDAY.

DID YOU...

STAY THE NIGHT HERE, SIRE?

...

FUFUFU .. YOU ARE MINE, OCTAVIA.

KYAA!

SIRE!

YOU SHOULD HAVE

BEEN A LITTLE MORE TEMPERATE WITH THE WINE

WOULD YOU TRY AND KILL ME WITH YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER?

WELL...?

YOU'VE A MEEK FACE

I KNOW THAT.

YOU'RE RATHER DEVILISH SIRE.

YOU MAY BE MINE, BUT YOU WON'T EVEN MAKE LOVE TO ME...!

L. I. A. R.

NOT AT ALL, I WOULD NEVER...

STOP IT!

NO!

THERE IS JUST ONE THRONE...

KU, KU, KU SEE LOOK, YOU NEEDN'T STRAIN YOURSELF.

THE EMPEROR STANDS ALONE

A...

LO.. NE.

EVEN IF YOU WERE TRYING TO KEEP UP THE APPEARANCE OF A GOOD WIFE, YOU CAN'T HIDE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS

IT'S ALL FOR NAUGHT!

NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THESE FAKES I GATHER..

I CAN'T... SEE THE PATH.

WHO IS THERE TO GUIDE ME...?

WHO.

WHO CAN I TRUST?

I CAN'T WALK ON BY MYSELF.

HE'S A BLESSED BOY, WHO WAS GRANTED THE SEAT OF GOD BY HIS MOTHER.

THE ROMAN EMPEROR IS THE SOVEREIGN OF A WORLD SPANNING EMPIRE

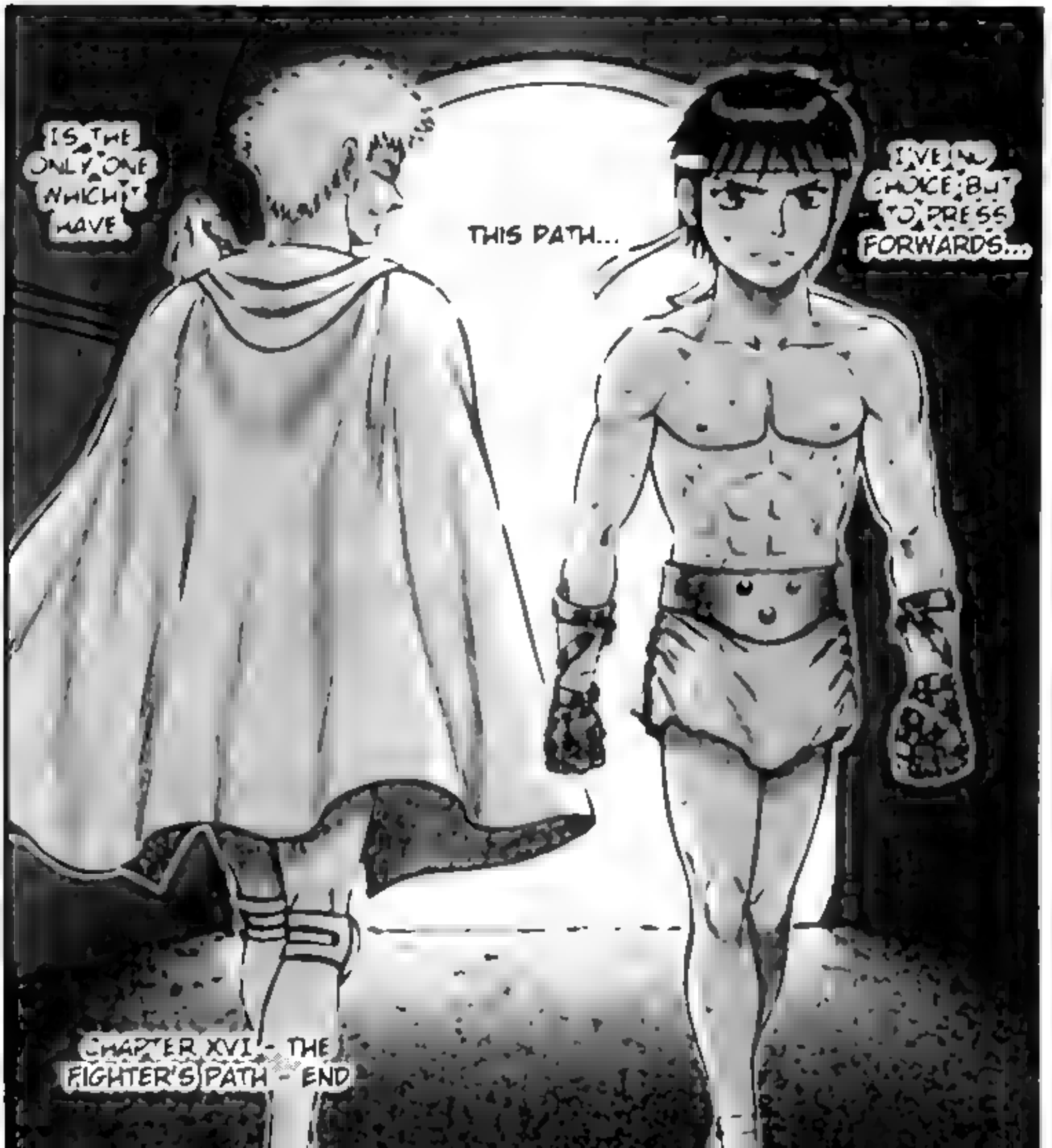
I WONDER IF HE REALLY HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY, AND WALK SUCH A PATH THROUGH THIS WORLD.

FOR THOSE BOYS...

THE SAME GOES FOR ME.

AND ALSO...

COMBAT-
MATURE
THANK
YOU


IS THE
ONLY ONE
WHICH I
HAVE
THIS PATH...
I'VE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO PRESS
FORWARDS...
CHAPTER XVI - THE
FIGHTER'S PATH - END

ネロ帝とその家系

初代皇帝アウグストゥスから五代皇帝ネロまでローマ帝国を統治したのはローマの名門貴族ユリウス・クラウディウス家出身の皇帝たちであった。そのため帝政ローマ初期（ＢＣ27～ＡＤ68）の約95年間はユリウス・クラウディウス朝と呼ばれている。

５人の皇帝たちはローマの英雄ユリウス・カエサル（ジュリアス・シーザー）の親族たちである。共和政末期に出現したカエサルの華々しい活躍によって没落貴族だったユリウス・クラウディウス家は一躍歴史の表舞台に立つことになっていくのである。

ネロ帝の正式名はルキウス・ドミティウス・アヘノバルブス・ネロ・クラウディウス・カエサル・アウグストゥス・ゲルマニクスという。やたらに長いのは先代の名を受け継ぐ律儀なならわしのせいである。

ネロの家系を遡ると、ある史実が浮かび上がって来る。母方の先祖には初代皇帝となったオクタビアヌスの名とローマの名将マルクス・アントニウスの名が記されているのである。アントニウスはカエサルの右腕として活躍した勇猛な武将である。オクタビアヌスはカエサルの姪の息子であり、カエサルが跡継ぎとして養子に迎え入れたほどの聡明な若者であった。カエサル亡き後二人はエジプトの覇権をめぐりアクティウムの海戦で対決する。結果はオクタビアヌスの完勝。アントニウスがクレオパトラと共に自殺したのは有名な史実である。

共和政ローマの最期を劇的に揺り動かした二人のライバルの血をネロはその体に奇しくも受け継いでいるのである。

ユリウス・クラウディウス朝 系図

（一部略）

皇帝

女性

（番号は即位の順番）

マルクス・アグリッパ

マルケッラ

スクルボニア

①（オクタビアヌス）アウグストゥス帝

リヴィア・ドルシラ

ティベリウス・クラウディウス・ネロ

マルクス・アントニウス

オクタヴィア

ユリア

ヴィプサニア

ティベリウス帝

ドルーススス

アントニア

ガイウス・カエサル

ルキウス・カエサル

ユリア

ヴィプサニア・アグリッピーナ

ドルーススス

ゲルマニクス

②

メッサリーナ

クラウディウス帝

④

ネロ・カエサル

ドルーススス・カエサル

カリギュラ帝

③

ドルシラ

ユリア・リヴィア

ユリア・アグリッピーナ

グナエウス・ドミティウス・アヘノバルブス

再　婚

結　婚

ネロ帝

⑤

オクタヴィア

ブリタニクス

巨大な権力のある所に悪徳と謀略はつきもので、5人の皇帝たちで天寿を全うできたのは、恐らく初代皇帝のアウグストゥスだけである。アウグストゥスは帝国の設立者にふさわしく、76歳で没する最期の日まで真面目に政務をこなしたと伝えられている。

二代皇帝ティベリウスは先代に劣らぬ長命だったが、過剰なまでに反逆を恐れ、疑わしき者を捕らえては次々に処刑にかけた。猜疑心にとりつかれた陰気な元首の晩年は、残虐な倒錯行為を繰り返し、醜悪を極めたという。王家の争いとは無関係だが、イエス・キリストが処刑されたのもティベリウス帝の時代である。

三代皇帝カリギュラは25歳の若さで帝位を継ぐが、狂気に侵されたため、本来は皇帝を守護するはずの近衛隊に暗殺されてしまう。

四代皇帝クラウディウスは控え目な性格らしく、堅実な善政で14年間帝国を統治するが、良妻には恵まれなかったようだ。

そして五代皇帝ネロ。最年少で即位した少年皇帝は破滅するのも早く、30歳で失脚し、没する。

ユリウス・カエサルが暗殺によって没したのは歴史上有名な事件である。ローマに凱旋した後、自ら終身独裁官を名乗り、強国の頂点に立った栄光の時に稀代の英雄は死を迎えたのだ。

そしてカエサルの名は、皇帝を指す言葉として後世に伝わるラテン語名のカエサル〈Caesar〉はドイツ語ではカイザー〈Kaizer〉すなわち「皇帝」という意味の単語になっている。

志半ばで倒れたカエサルの名が、彼の望んだ地位を指す言葉として現代に伝わっているのは歴史の皮肉というところでしょうか。

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セスタス

●初出一覧

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第Ⅱ章　第Ⅶ話「偽証」……●ヤングアニマル(1998年17号)
第Ⅱ章　第Ⅷ話「闘者の道」……●ヤングアニマル(1998年18号)

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拳闘暗黒伝セスタス2

1998年11月30日第1刷発行
2001年1月15日第10刷発行

著　者　技来静也

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発行人　角南 攻
発行所　株式会社白泉社　〒101-0063　東京都千代田区神田猿楽町2-2-2
電話［編集］03-3526-8055
［販売］03-3526-8010
［業務］03-3526-8020
印刷所　凸版印刷株式会社
装丁者　D'STUDIO

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ISBN4-592-13322-6

Printed in Japan HAKUSENSHA　　白泉社ホームページ　http://www.hakusensha.co.jp

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